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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

As we begin another Senate session, most gracious Father, remind us that we never drift out of Your love and care. Faces may change and conditions may alter, but You are always there, just when we need You most. Thank You for protecting us from seen and unseen dangers, for being our refuge and strength.

Today, lead our Senators to do Your will. May their actions spring from thoughts that are pure, just, true, honest, and good. Give them the serenity to accept the things they cannot change, the courage to change the things they can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Help each of us to remember that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, on behalf of the majority leader, I have been

asked to make the following announcement: We are going to resume debate right now on the committee substitute to the border security bill. There are a number of amendments pending. It is anticipated that there will be two votes likely to begin at 5:30. Members will be alerted when those votes are locked in with certainty, but that is the current expectation.

Senator FRIST has reminded everyone that this is the final week of legislative work prior to the Easter recess. We expect busy days with late sessions in order to complete the work on the pending legislation before the end of the week. Senator FRIST has made the explicit comment that Senators should plan for a full week of business with votes throughout the week.

We have already had quite a number of amendments filed. We know that the tempo of the Senate is to finish legislation, such as that which is pending now, when it is backed up to a recess. I have been authorized to say that we will be holding the votes to 20 minutes—15 minutes as prescribed by the rules of the Senate and 5 minutes over. We all have seen the votes run very late and take up a great deal of floor time. We will be voting with a 20-minute cutoff.

Senator LEAHY has asked me to express his view as well as mine that all Senators come forward with amendments so that we can evaluate them, make a determination as to which ones can be accepted and as to which ones will have to be debated and voted upon. We will be looking for time agreements. But we have a prodigious job ahead of us to finish the bill by the end of the week. We solicit the cooperation of all Members.

I will have more to say, but I yield at this point to the Democratic leader.

RECOGNITION OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SECURING AMERICA'S BORDERS ACT

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2454, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2454) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for comprehensive reform, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Specter/Leahy amendment No. 3192, in the nature of a substitute.

Kyl/Cornyn amendment No. 3206 (to amendment No. 3192), to make certain aliens ineligible for conditional nonimmigrant work authorization and status.

Cornyn amendment No. 3207 (to amendment No. 3206), to establish an enactment date.

Bingaman amendment No. 3210 (to amendment No. 3192), to provide financial aid to local law enforcement officials along the Nation's borders.

Alexander amendment No. 3193 (to amendment No. 3192), to prescribe the binding oath or affirmation of renunciation and allegiance required to be naturalized as a citizen of the United States, to encourage and support the efforts of prospective citizens of the United States to become citizens.

Isakson amendment No. 3215 (to amendment No. 3192), to demonstrate respect for legal immigration by prohibiting the implementation of a new alien guest worker program until the Secretary of Homeland Security certifies to the President and the Congress that the borders of the United States are reasonably sealed and secured.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 5:30

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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